



Conservation Man of the Year for 1974, Bob Jones, poses with his wife Sue, and three children. Standing left to right, Michael, Bobette and Steven.

Bob Jones chosen 'the man' for '74

The farming practices of Bob Jones have earned him the title of Morrow County's Conservation Man of the Year for 1974.

Jones was selected this year's winner in the competition sponsored annually by the Morrow County Wheat Growers Association and the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District.

Good conservation practices are not new to areas along Heppner Flats and Rhea Creek, which Bob farms. As far back as 1965 Jones was constructing diversion ditches and forming a silt dam on his property. These first projects gave way to further expansion of his diversion ditch system, which he began work on in 1969 with the engineering help of the Soil Conservation Service. Last year Jones installed 33,260 feet of diversion ditches on the 1,873 acres of land he farms at the two sections.

He is by no means through with his conservation work. He plans to add an additional 26,600 feet of diversion ditches this year and at least two more silt dams are being planned for the future.

Besides diversion ditches and his silt dam he also conserves topsoil through careful crop and land management. In past years Jones has seeded nearly 59 acres of cropland to grass, of which four acres was classified as critical conservation areas.

As with most farmers in the area, Jones is forced to moldboard plow about 500 of his acres to combat cheat grass. He's anxious for some of the new experimental cheat grass weed killers to be approved for crop use, since this would cut down the amount of tillage he has to do.

Like the other agriculturalists in the Northwest, Jones is facing the present fertilizer shortage with a great deal of concern. When he fertilized last fall his supplier promised to supply him this year with the same amount he applied for last year. Because of adverse conditions this spring, he has not gotten all of his weed spraying done. "Fortunately it's not a weedy year," he said.

Jones seeds primarily Hy-Stat but says he is eager to try the newly released McDermitt in the near future.

When he finishes his new projects he plans on just "seeing what it looks like before setting up a plan for the next several years." He will be the first one to tell you it's not possible to have too many diversion ditches. "One time I had so many erosion ditches on the side of a hill that I couldn't combine it in one easy run, and I had to go up and down the hill which proved to be a real pain in the neck."

Jones was raised in Heppner and attended school here. While attending the University of Oregon in Eugene he received his degree in business and met his wife, Carol Sue. After college, he joined the army and served in Stuttgart, Germany, where Bobette, their first child was born.

When he returned to the states, he took over management of his father's ranch, which with the additional Rhea Creek place now makes up his total acreage.

Sue recently began taking Blue Mountain Community College night classes, held in Heppner, and continued to take a full time schedule in

Pendleton. In three years of college work at BMCC and Eastern Oregon State College in LaGrande she was able to graduate with her teaching certificate and credits in library science. For the past two years she has served as a 2nd grade teacher at Heppner Elementary and next year she will be serving as librarian there.

The Jones family presently consists of Bobette, 19, a student at BMCC; Steven, 15, a sophomore at Heppner High; and Michael, 12, a 6th grader at his mother's school. The family will be losing a member on June 15 when Bobette will be marrying Dale Hedman and moving to New Mexico.

Bob is a member of the Elks Club and is a life member of the Oregon Wheat League. He serves on the ASCS county committee and is finishing his fourth year as a city council member.

He will receive formal recognition at the Farm-City Banquet to be held this fall. A tour of his conservation award winning farm will also be conducted in the fall. The award automatically enters Jones in the statewide competition where last year's county winners will be judging his farm against those of other county winners for this year. Next year he will be serving on this selection committee.

Morrow County has been well represented in the state contest in the last few years. Mel Moyer was Conservation Man of the Year for the State of Oregon last year after winning the Morrow County award in 1972.

Clears first hurdle

City budget, \$798,000

The Heppner Common Council met jointly with members of the Budget Committee Monday night, and the Budget Committee approved the 1974-75 budget which totals more than \$798,000.

The 35-page budget document is within the 6 per cent limitation. The sharp increase over last year's budget of \$356,469 results from inclusion of the \$450,000 bond issue for

improvements to the city water system.

Although the committee voted approval of the budget, a public hearing will be held June 17, 8 p.m., before the council finally adopts the budget.

The new budget proposes a 10 per cent increase in wages for city employees, and increases in general fund requirements, sewer operating fund, water utility fund and

revenue sharing fund.

There were no changes in the fire department equipment fund, sewer improvement fund, street equipment reserve, police equipment reserve or the land reserve fund.

In last week's special council meeting, May 15, the council voted approval of Phase 2 of the water improvement plan, and also approved Steve Anderson, city engineer,

to negotiate with the Corp of Engineers.

The Phase 2 project was okayed with the stipulation that Anderson proceed with the project if the money is available at the time.

The council also passed Ordinance 390, to vacate Baltimore St.

The next scheduled meeting of the council is June 3, 8 p.m.

Use permits approved

Two conditional use applications for cement batch plants in Morrow County were waived by the Morrow County Planning Commission Monday when it ruled that the permits were not needed because the areas are properly zoned for the sites.

The requests came from Flynn Sand and Gravel Co. and Shockman Bros. of Hermiston. The Shockman site would be on the southern border of the Kinzua mill site near Heppner, and it was noted by the commission that certain limitations for the use be noted.

Since both areas are zoned

for industrial use the commission agreed to allow cement batch plants to qualify for the industrial use requirements.

The State of Oregon Highway Division requested a conditional use permit for a surface mining quarry on land owned presently by the Port of Morrow. John Hagedorn of the Highway Division at McNary explained that the site would also be used for stockpiling gravel which would be prepared by a crusher at the site. Asphalt road material would also be prepared there.

Hagedorn explained that the division would have to dig

down about 10 feet to get to the gravel source. He also noted the plant would be producing road material for the highway between Arlington and the Irrigon junction, and that the plant would probably be closed by the end of 1975. The commission approved the request.

A variance application by Norman Clow to allow him to decrease the normal set-back requirements for a structure in a farm zone was approved by the commission after a brief discussion.

Umatilla Electric Coop Association was granted a conditional use permit to build a substation on property

owned by the Port of Morrow.

The commission decided to appoint County Planner Del Smith and Assistant District Attorney Dennis Doherty to review provisions of Senate Bill 101 and set up guidelines for bringing Morrow County Zoning Ordinances up to the legislative provisions.

Illegal mobile home practices and related violations in the county were discussed by Smith. He said an inspector from the Department of Environmental Quality office was in the county to make legal recommendations to his office and to the county.

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County office in Irrigon

The need for a meeting facility and office space in the north end of Morrow County has been felt for some time by the county court and various departments of county government.

Permanent office space has been contracted for in a building that is being remodeled to house the office of the justice court in Irrigon. When this new facility is completed, the county court will be holding one session per month there.

Temporary arrangements have been made through the cooperation of the West Extension Irrigation District to use its office in the center of

town. A tentative schedule has been set up, starting on Monday, June 3, with David Mitchum, mental health director; Tuesday, June 4, Mrs. Birdine Tullis and-or Mike Howell of the county extension staff; Wednesday, June 5, Carolyn Davis, juvenile director and-or Mrs. Mary Rogers, Children Services Division; Thursday, June 6, Del Smith, Morrow County planner.

In the beginning they will plan to have the office open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the scheduled days each week. Later it is hoped that a secretary may be on duty on a five-day weekly basis.

Farmers in protest

More than 55 area farmers are scheduled for appeals before the Morrow County Board of Equalization as a result of the land assessment value raise which has been implemented this year.

The appeals are expected to take approximately a week to 10 days to complete, since the board cannot meet every day. The first group appeared for the public hearings Monday in the office of Judge Paul Jones at the Morrow County courthouse.

Notice

Monday, May 27, is Memorial Day.

The post office will be closed, as will most business firms.

Gazette-Times correspondents are reminded that their news must either be hand-delivered on Monday, or mailed to reach the newspaper the previous Saturday if it is to appear in the issue of May 30.

Advertisers will be contacted earlier next week because of the Memorial Day holiday.

Pioneer reunion is Monday, May 7

Heppner's traditional community-wide Memorial Day Reunion Luncheon and program is set for Monday, May 27, at the Morrow County Fairground Pavilion.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Cutsforth are chairmen for this year's gathering to which everyone is invited.

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the room on the west of the large hall, with the Soroptimist Club members in charge. The Morrow County Pioneer Association will have a cash-donation jar nearby so visitors can help defray the cost of coffee, ham, hot rolls and other needed supplies. Grange ladies will prepare and serve baked ham, coffee

and ice cream. Ruby Steers will prepare hot rolls. Local people are asked to bring along miscellaneous salads, hot dishes and desserts. Lunch is to begin at 12 noon.

Members of the new Heppner Lions Club will assist with setting up tables and rounding up chairs. Hager Dairy is again donating milk and punch. The CowBelles will give place mats for the tables, and the 1st National Bank will furnish nametags. The Merchants Committee of the Chamber of Commerce will furnish door prizes.

Before lunch, at 11:45 a.m., a brief memorial service for the honored dead will be conducted by Arnold Hedman, commander, Heppner Ameri-

can Legion Post No. 87. Rev. Mark Johnson of Hope Lutheran Church will give the Invocation. Sam McMillan, Lexington historian who now lives in Milwaukie, and author of a forth-coming book on the Lexington area, will serve as official host and master-of-ceremonies at the luncheon. He will introduce special guests and will award special prizes. A drawing will be held for door prizes.

Last year Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warren were chairmen for the reunion, and more than 300 persons attended. At the close of this year's program the chairmen for 1975 will be announced.

Heppner to lose Don Bellamy

The Soil Conservation Service in Heppner is losing its soil conservation technician, Don Bellamy, to the office for Sherman County in Moro at the end of May.

For Bellamy the move will be a return to a familiar area, as he served with the SCS there from 1961 to 1970, when he moved to the Heppner area.

While in Heppner he and his family resided on a small

farm near town where he farmed on a small scale. During his stay here, he worked as an advisor for various water diversion projects and was involved with conservation practices of the area.

Don and wife Nora have eight children, Billy, 23; Penny, 22, married to Roland Puckett; Tim, 21; Sam, 20, married to Mary Kay Hughes;

Ted, 19; Donna, 17; Kitty, 15; and Cameron, 4.

Don's family has been active in 4-H and FFA in the county. His work in FFA has resulted in honorary membership for him in the state, Heppner and Moro chapters.

Don will be replaced by Bob Davis, who has been working in the SCS office in Condon, on June 9. Davis is married and has one child. He is looking for a house to rent in the area.

Daniels supports Measures 1 and 3

Morrow County School Superintendent Ron Daniels was guest speaker at the noon luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce.

He spoke on the six ballot measures to be voted on next Tuesday, but dwelt mostly on Measures 1 and 3, and the affect the two would have on residents of Morrow County.

Ballot Measure 1 provides for an increase in corporate and personal income taxes that would provide an additional \$110 million earmarked for education. It also limits federal tax deduction on state income taxes to \$3,000 and places corporations and

financial institutions on a graduated rate scale of from 4 to 9 per cent.

At the time the legislature drafted the measure, it was thought the additional revenue would provide 50 per cent of the cost of education in Oregon. Inflation has now reduced that to 43 per cent, but that is still a substantial increase over the present 28 per cent, Daniels pointed out.

"If this measure fails it could very likely result in a decrease in state aid, as most of the additional money appropriated to education by the 1973 legislature, was from

single shot revenues," he said.

"The legislature would be hard pressed to find sufficient funds from present sources to maintain the 1974-75 level of state aid."

The measure also contains a new formula for distributing state funds to local school districts. The bulk of the new funds would be used to help equalize school taxes throughout the state.

Presently the basic school support fund is distributed 81 per cent on flat grants, and 19 per cent equalization. The new formula would distribute 63 per cent as flat grants and 37 per cent as equalization.

The Morrow County School District has a high true cash value per student and therefore does not receive any equalization money.

Therefore, even with the increase in state funding from 28 per cent to 43 per cent Morrow County would not receive very much additional state aid, but a substantial amount of money would be collected here under the new income tax rates, he said.

Measure 3 would establish new tax bases for 1975-76, based on the 1974-75 budget, plus an allowable increase of 5.5 per cent.

Due to the wording of the tax

base formula most districts would not receive a full 5.5 per cent increase. In Morrow County for example the formula would permit a little less than a 5 per cent increase.

The existing tax base law established in 1916 permits a 6 per cent increase, but that is 6 per cent of the tax levy, not of the total budget.

However only 11 Oregon school districts have up-to-date tax bases. The rest of the school districts must receive voter approval each year for funds to operate schools, he said.



RON DANIELS